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Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus

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Sounds of the Season


Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus

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The Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus

proudly presents

Sounds of the Season

Friday, December 10, 2010
The Riviera Theater
67 Webster Street
North Tonawanda, NY • 8pm

Saturday, December 11, 2010
University at Buffalo, North Campus
Slee Hall, Coventry Road Entrance
Amherst, NY • 8pm

Sunday, December 12, 2010
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
1080 Main Street
Buffalo, NY • 4pm



BGM C
The Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus

716.883.1277

buffalogaymenschorus.org



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206 South Elmwood at Chippewa / Downtown Buffalo
716-847-0315 / www.AIDSCommunityServices.com

BGM C
The Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus

Office:

51 Colonial Circle
Buffalo, New York 14222

716.883.1277

www.buffalogaymenschorus.org

A NEW YORK NOT-FOR-PROFIT CORPORATION

Our Mission

The Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus is dedicated to producing vocal music of high quality in the rich tradition of men's choral singing.

We seek through song not only to entertain, but also to enlighten.

We sing to create harmony as we celebrate pride in our communities and in ourselves.



CITY OF BUFFALO

BYRON W. BROWN

MAYOR



December 2010

Dear Members and Supporters of the Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus:

Greetings and salutations to the BGMC on the occasion of your holiday season of song!

We send warm wishes on behalf of the City of Buffalo as you present "Sounds of the Season!" at the Riviera Theatre on December 10th, at the University of Buffalo, North Campus on December 11th and at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church on December 12th.

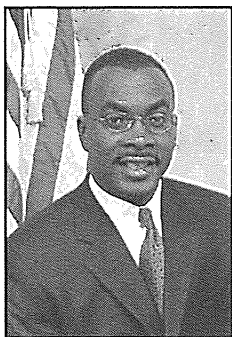
Your continued success under the direction of Maestra Barbara Wagner represents all that is best about the arts in our region: beauty, harmony and excellence!

While we listen to your "vocal music of high quality in the rich tradition of men's choral singing," we know your sounds are the fruit of hard work and many rehearsal hours.

Congratulations on the positive impact you have on our community and region and continued best wishes as you enlighten and entertain in our "City of Good Neighbors!"

Sincerely,

Byron W. Brown
Mayor



65 NIAGARA SQUARE / 201 CITY HALL / BUFFALO, NY 14202-3392 / (716) 851-4841 FAX: (716) 851-4360 / www.city-buffalo.com

Special Thanks

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Riviera Theatre

Our Saturday Hosts

Slee Hall, University at Buffalo

Our Sunday Hosts

Holy Trinity Lutheran

Assistant Artistic Director

David K. Mathewson

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Gregory Ciupak, Andy Newbert,
Nathan Phillips, Robert Szustak and
Barbara Wagner

Photography

Roger Parris and Mike Longo

Program Coordinator

Dave Batt and Robert Szustak

Program Cover Artwork

James Nizioł

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Robin Johnson, Vilardo Printing

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Assistant to the Web Master

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Please feel free to notify the Chorus of any changes or corrections for future programs at www.buffalogaymenschorus.org or by letter to the Chorus at 51 Colonial Circle, Buffalo, New York 14222.

BGMC has "gone green". Please recycle your concert program if you do not wish to keep it as a souvenir. You will find collection boxes at the rear of the concert hall. Thank you!

Friends of the Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus

From all of the BGMC Family, a very special and heartfelt thank you to the Friends of the BGMC. Your generosity allows us to bring enlightenment, inspiration, healing and harmony to the greater community and to all of us. We are most grateful that you have added your "voices" to ours.

The Friends of the BGMC listed in this program are those whose contributions were received between April 1, 2010 and November 20, 2010.

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To My Family and Friends*
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Barbara L. Wagner

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Deceased
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Hans J. Tamberg,
In Memory of David Hoppy
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COME JOIN US IN SONG

The BGMC thanks all its members, volunteers, and audiences, past, present and future. We also extend to the entire Western New York Community an invitation to join our organization as either a volunteer or singer. We welcome new singers with open arms. And, as always, we welcome any man, straight or gay, who wishes not only to sing, but to join our mission to seek through song to enlighten as well as to entertain. Auditions for the second half of our season will take place Tuesday, January 4, 2011 and Tuesday, January 11, 2011 at 6pm at St. John's Grace, 51 Colonial Circle, Buffalo, NY 14222. Please phone our Artistic Director, Barbara Wagner, at 716.668.1124 or 716.359.1894 to make an appointment for an audition.

The Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus



Sounds of the Season

Christopher S. Babbitt, President



The Holiday season is a time when I reflect back on the years past. From the traditions, like Mom and Dad's annual Christmas Eve party or the time spent decorating the family tree, my family memories are the things that I hold onto throughout the holiday season. The Holidays hold special meaning for everyone both young and old. It is a time to reflect, love, forgive and welcome. I am fortunate to have a supportive and loving family and I am thankful that my parents came from Connecticut this weekend to hear the BGMC sing live for the first time.

Not all gay men and women have the same path or the same endings, but we do share something in common and that is the need to be loved and accepted. This past year we have heard of the many young gay men committing suicide because of bullying and not being accepted. The nation has begun the campaign "It gets better" that has swept the internet. As you sit here and listen to the BGMC's "Sounds of the Season" please keep in your thoughts the many gay men and women across the globe that do not feel the love and acceptance that so many of us have taken for granted.

Family for me is everything. I am blessed to call many of you my family because family today goes beyond Mother, Father, Brother and Sister. Family is love. I am grateful that you have chosen to spend part of your holiday season with the BGMC. I ask that you continue to show love, support and understanding to individuals who are different from you. Love heals everything.

Happy holidays on behalf of the Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus. May you find and share love this season.

Yours in LOVE,
Christopher S. Babbitt

Sounds of the Season

Barbara Wagner, Artistic Director



I love the program for this concert -- so many of the songs tell stories that we can all relate to. The text to "The Prayer" is what most of us dream of when we think of the holiday season. Peace, love and hope are symbols that should be with us all year long. Unfortunately, we often lose our way. We have lost many young gay people this past year, just because of who they were. We sing this song to their loved ones, left behind. "Sure on this Shining Night" speaks of healing and health, and hearts made whole. I think of Silent Night (Stille Nacht) and the story of the American and German soldiers, each singing in their own language across the battle lines on a Christmas Eve during World War II. There were a few moments of peacefulness and hope for those battle weary men. One of my favorite songs in this lovely program is a setting of the old tune, "There is No Rose" by Rebecca Clarke. As I listen to the wonderful men of BGMC sing this song, I think about our first rehearsal back in August. The room was so still when I walked in. There were people there, young and old, new people and veterans. I think that many of us were thinking about the difficulties of last season and the sadness that went with it. I heard the new people who were there to audition, and they were all fine singers and so eager to make music with us. We did some noisy, rollicking warm-ups and it felt so good. As we started to sing "There is No Rose", later on in the rehearsal, I kept being reminded of the quiet shyness and tentativeness that we all had experienced, just an hour before. The song begins so softly - just a murmur, but soon we began to make a mighty sound to the words of the angels and the shepherds as they sang Gloria in Excelsis. We sang joyously to the end of the rehearsal, and as we all took hands we sang "How Can I Keep From Singing", a new tradition for us. I think we all knew then that we cannot keep from singing. Our hearts became whole again, just as "Sure on This Shining Night" says. Our precious chorus would survive.

With peace, hope and love this holiday season,
Barbara Wagner

The Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus

Tenor I

Jerrod Baldwin
Robert D. Black
Norman Urban Boyer
Joe Brothers
Mark Dauria
Shaun Doyle, Jr.*
Norm Duttweiler, Jr. *
Ronald Houk ++
Dion R. Johnson
G. Michael Liska
Matthew Mooney*
Brett Ransom
Hanford Searl, Jr
Robert J. Szustak + *

Bass I

Franklin G. Ball
Dominic Ballachino
Dave Batt
Paul Berglund
Gregory Ciupak +
William H. Gardner
Andy Giarrizzo
Jeffrey C. Hunt
David J.L. Lewis
Raymond Neil
Andy Newbert ++
Andrew Pollard*
Joe Puma
Jim Rigo
Sherwood 'Woody' Sipprell
Mark Smith*
Dennis C. Stuart
Chad Szymczak

Tenor II

Donald Behr
Jeffrey Berger
Joseph Grieco
William C. Hardy ++
Gerry Klein
Delwyn Milander
Clifford Moore, III
Scott Nachbar
Roger Parris
Mark J. Peszko
Nathan E. Phillips +
Mike Rogers

Bass II

Christopher S. Babbitt *
Michael Cacho
Pierre Albrecht-Carrié
William F. Donaldson
Jaime Stephan Goldfuss ++
Lorne Edward Gretsinger
Jason Higbee
Randy Kozlowski
George F. Lane, III
David K. Mathewson *+
Ryan McKane
L. Martin Palcic
Brian Rotach
Joseph A. Zimmerman

* Indicates Board Member

+ Indicates Section Leader

++ Indicates Associate Section Leader

The Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus (continued)

Non-Singing Members

Mike Longo
Mark Mancuso
Ramón Meléndez
Michael Shanahan

Artistic Director

Barbara L. Wagner

Accompanist

Dr. David Bond

Publicist

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Christopher Reybrouck, Treasurer
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Shaun Doyle, Jr.
Mark Mancuso
Matthew Mooney
Andrew Pollard
Mark Smith
Robert Szustak

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Gregory Ciupak
Jaime Stephan Goldfuss
William C. Hardy
Ronald Houk
Dion R. Johnson
David K. Mathewson
Andy Newbert
Nathan E. Phillips
Robert J. Szustak
Barbara Wagner

Sounds of the Season

Harambee (Call to Unity)	Joseph Jennings
Go, Tell It on the Mountain	Vijay Singh, arr. Matthew Mooney, <i>tenor</i> with <i>The Chorus</i>
The Shepherd's Spiritual	Donald Moore Dion Johnson, <i>tenor</i> with <i>The Chorus</i>
Sure On This Shining Night	Morten Lauridsen
There Is No Rose	15th Century English Carol Rebecca Clarke, arr. David Mathewson, <i>bass</i> Paul Berglund, <i>baritone</i> with <i>The Chorus</i>
The Prayer	Carole Bayer Sager
Bogoroditse Devo (Ave Maria)	Sergei Rachmaninoff Robert J. Szustak, <i>counter-tenor</i> with <i>The Chorus</i>
Angels We Have Heard on High	French Carol A. Laurence Lyon, arr.

— *Intermission* —

12 Days of Christmas	Traditional
Variations on "Jingle Bells"	John Pierpont Mark Hayes, arr. Jennifer Mernitz, <i>soprano</i> with <i>The Chorus</i>
Diddle Squat	James Curry Nathan Phillips, <i>tenor</i> George Lane, <i>bass</i> with <i>The Chorus</i>
Santa Claus is Back in Town	Jerry Leiber and Mike Stoller Deke Sharon, arr. James Rigo, <i>baritone</i> with <i>The Chorus</i>
Silver Bells	Jay Livingston and Ray Evans Kevin Robinson, arr.
Silent Night	Franz Gruber Mack Wilberg, arr. Shaun Doyle, <i>tenor</i> with <i>The Chorus</i>
Oseh Shalom	Ben Steinberg
Auld Lang Syne	Traditional Scottish Folk Song Kathleen McGuire, arr. Robert J. Szustak, <i>tenor</i> Scott Nachbar, <i>tenor</i> with <i>The Chorus</i>

*Please join us for a Reception
immediately following the Performance.*

Music Notes

Written by Greg Ciupak, Andy Newbert,
Nathan Phillips and Robert J. Szustak

Harambee (Call to Unity)

Harambee is a Kenyan tradition of community self-help events and literally means “all pull together” in Swahili. It is a concept fostered in “Umoja,” one of the principles of Kwanzaa, meaning to strive for and maintain unity in the family, community, nation and race. Kwanzaa is an African-American holiday dedicated to celebrating the best in people of African descent and their cultures. Harambee is a rousing call to unity, and is sung in sets of seven to honor and to recall the seven principles of Kwanzaa, which include umoja (unity), kujichagulia (self-determination), ujima (collective work and responsibility), ujamaa (cooperative economics), nia (purpose), kuumba (creativity) and imani (faith).

Go Tell it on the Mountain

Go Tell It on the Mountain is an African-American spiritual compiled by John W. Work. Dating back to at least 1865, it has been sung and recorded by many gospel and secular performers. It is considered a Christmas Carol because its original lyric celebrates the Nativity of Jesus: “Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere; go tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born!”

Shepherd's Spiritual

Also known as “Rise Up, Shepherd and Follow”, this song dates back to the “Slave Songs of the United States”, first published in 1867, as well as “Religious Folk Songs of the Negro as sung on the Plantations”, printed in 1909. A classic America folk carol, this plantation song highlights the “call and response” echoing patterns that are indicative of the era of plantation work and song. Popularized by American soprano, Dorothy Maynor, she helped familiarize Americans with this type of Negro spiritual. Adapted now for choral performance, in this piece, Donald Moore has created a beautiful contrast in dynamics and vocal timbre that lifts the melody lightly off the page and lifts your spirit in this ages old spiritual.

Sure On This Shining Night

Of star made shadows round
Kindness must watch for me
This side of ground.

The late year lies down the north
All is healed, all is health.
High summer holds the earth,
Hearts all whole.

Sure on this shining night
I weep for wonder
Wand'ring far alone
Of shadows on the stars.

Named an “American Choral Master” by the National endowment for the arts in 2005, Morten Lauridsen was awarded the 2007 National Medal of Arts, the highest artistic award in the United States, by the President in a White House ceremony “for his composition of radiant choral works combining musical beauty, power and spiritual depth.” The men of the Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus and I couldn't agree more.

There is No Rose

“There is No Rose of Such Virtue” is a fifteenth century English carol. Here, the original tune is arranged by the English composer and violinist Rebecca Clarke (1886-1979). During her earlier years she found herself playing and composing in “a man's world,” and her life included considerable personal and professional struggle. A notable achievement, however, was her appointment to The Queen's Hall Orchestra, in 1912, as their first woman member. Her work flowered during the period between the two world wars, during which time she was living and composing in the United States. She completed her arrangement of “There is no Rose” in 1928. “*There is no rose of such vertu*” is an Old English hymn to the Virgin Mary. She is identified as “the rose of such virtue,” in whom “was contained heaven and earth in little space,” a reference to the holy child in her womb. The translation of *res Miranda* is “a wonderful thing.” *Gaudeamus* means “Rejoice.” This genre of carols is bi-lingual, or macaronic (“mixed”), with the verses sung in English and the refrains in Latin. During the period of the Renaissance many hymns were translated into the current English dialect, but the Latin refrains clung, probably out of cherished habit or memory.

The Prayer

I pray you'll be our eyes
And watch us where we go
And help us to be wise
In times when we don't know

Let this be our prayer
As we go our way
Lead us to a place
Guide us with your grace
To a place where we'll be safe

We dream of a world with no more violence
A world of justice and hope
Grasp your neighbors hand
As a symbol of peace and brotherhood.

Let this be our prayer
Just like every child
Needs to find a place,
Guide us with your grace
Give us faith so we'll be safe.

These beautifully written words serve as a powerful symbol for a world of peace, love and hope during not only the holiday season, but the entire year. The BGMC keeps in mind the loss of so many young gay people who needlessly died during this past year because of who they were. We send this prayer to the hearts of their loved ones as they cope with the tremendous loss of their sons and daughters. We pray for a world of acceptance, love and peace; this song beckons for us all to be given faith so that we'll be safe.

Bogoroditse Devo (Ave Maria)

One of the movements of Rachmaninoff's *Vespers*, this is one of the most profoundly beautiful choral chants, based on the All Night Vigil service. Rachmaninoff composed the *Vespers* in 1915 when traditional Russia was on the brink of destruction and revolution. Choral music in Russia had had a little Renaissance for a few decades at the time, and Rachmaninoff's *Vespers* were the glorious pinnacle. Rachmaninoff wasn't very religious at all, so he didn't really know what traditional church music was like. As a result his All Night Vigil was inventive, with a refreshing take on the text. The BGMC particularly loves this enchanting Ave Maria just as much as Rachmaninoff, who is said to have requested this piece be performed at his funeral, with all of its rich, ethereal harmonies.

Angels We Have Heard on High

Commemorating the birth of Jesus Christ as recounted in the Gospel of Luke, when shepherds encounter a multitude of angels singing in the tiny town of Bethlehem, this song is based on a traditional French carol, *Les Anges dans nos campagnes* (literally meaning "Angels in our countryside"). Translated into English by James Chadwick, a Roman Catholic Bishop in 1862, this song today is most commonly sung to the hymn tune "Gloria" arranged by Edward Barnes, in which the song crescendos to a "Gloria in Excelsis Deo", Latin for "Give Glory to God in the Highest". Centuries old now, this carol has withstood time, being adapted for various choral voices and performances and is sung joyfully now, as a true Christmas classic

Variations on Jingle Bells

Oh what fun is to ride... along with us on this merriest of Jingle Bells! You've likely NOT heard this version. One of the best known and commonly sung winter songs in the world, Jingle Bells was originally written by James Lord Pierpont and published in 1857 under the name "One Horse Open Sleigh". Fast forward about 150 years and you will hear a version tonight of Jingle Bells that you will not soon forget. Arranged by modern day composer Mark Hayes, he sets this favorite holiday tune in waltz style with comical lyrics, a big bang jazz chorus, a tongue-in-cheek classical section, (fitting for the most discerning of Diva's), with a jingle-jangling finale; all masterfully rolled into one.... *Variations on "Jingle Bells"*.

Diddle Squat

Diddle Squat, a.k.a. as Diddly-Squat, is a slang expression meaning "nothing". When you say that someone knows diddly-squat about chemistry, what you mean is that the individual doesn't know anything about the subject. In the song, Diddle Squat, it reminds us that being "naughty" instead of "nice" still yields the same results on Christmas morning... NOTHING!

Santa Claus is Back in Town

Written by the legendary Leiber and Stoller, first became famous when it was recorded by Elvis Presley in 1957 with the Jordanaires singing back-up. The song was also recorded by Mae West, and is a rousing, rock and roll song reminding you to be a "real good little baby, 'cause Santa Claus is back in town." It serves as a playful reminder to our adult audience to be good this year, too.

Silver Bells

Written by Jay Livingston and Ray Evans, was written in 1950 for the Paramount picture "The Lemon-Drop Kid", featuring the legendary Bob Hope. Livingston and Evans were challenged to write a Christmas song for the film, but were reluctant, citing that it was near impossible to write a hit Christmas song. Originally they wrote a song called "Tinkle Bell", about the Santa Clauses and the Salvation Army workers who stand on New York City street corners tinkling their bells. Realizing what most Americans would think of an alternative meaning to the word "tinkle", they put aside "Tinkle Bell" and started to write a new song, using the music and melody of "Tinkle Bell", and changing the word "tinkle" to "silver".

Silent Night

180 years ago the carol "Stille Nacht, Heilige Nacht" was heard for the first time in a village church in Oberndorf, Austria. The congregation at that Midnight Mass in St. Nicholas Church listened as the voices of the assistant pastor, Fr. Joseph Mohr, and the choir director, Franz Xavier Gruber, rang through the church to the accompaniment of Fr. Mohr's guitar. On each of the six verses, the choir repeated the last two lines in four-part harmony. Now translated into hundreds of languages, "Silent Night" is sung by untold millions every December from small chapels in the Andes to great cathedrals in Antwerp and Rome to beautiful spaces here in Buffalo, NY brought to you by the BGMC. Its powerful message of heavenly peace has crossed all borders and language barriers, conquering the hearts of people everywhere.

Oseh Shalom

Ben Steinberg, perhaps the most widely commissioned composer of Jewish music worldwide, is Director of Music and Composer-in-Residence at Toronto's Temple Sinai. "Oseh Shalom" is excerpted from his 1990 *Voice of Peace (Kol Shalom)*, a Friday evening service for Cantor, choir and organ. The text includes the last words of the Mourner's Kaddish, the prayer of praise that expresses a yearning for the establishment of God's kingdom on earth. The word "Kaddish" means "sanctification" and the prayer is a somber sanctification of God's name.

Auld Lang Syne

Auld Lang Syne is a traditional Scottish poem that was adapted by Robert Burns in 1788. In English, a literal translation is "old long since," or, more colloquially, "long, long ago" or "days" of long ago. When Burns presented the song to the British Museum, he remarked: "The following song is an old song, of the olden times, which has never been in print or even in manuscript, until I took it down from an old man's singing." This arrangement, lovingly composed for BGMC by Kathleen McGuire, emphasizes the song's Scottish roots, including voices imitating bagpipes, melodic ornamentation and accompaniment provided by tin whistle and acoustic guitar.

History of the Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus

Historically, gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered (GLBT) persons have seldom had a "voice", a comprehensive, recognized presence with full participation in the American culture. Today, however, GLBT choruses are flourishing. The Gay and Lesbian Association of Choruses (GALA), the national support organization for GLBT singing groups, celebrated its 25th anniversary in 2008. The passage of New York State's Sexual Orientation Non-Discrimination Act (SONDA), as well as the rising success of the Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus are just two examples of many developments changing history for the better.

The BGMC idea was first conceived in 1999. Guided by Roger Parris (still one of our singers), a vigorous group of men worked throughout the coming year to make the BGMC organization a reality. With the support of the Rochester Gay Men's Chorus to encourage them, a steering committee consisting of twelve or more dedicated members had written the by-laws and incorporation papers, held fundraisers for seed money, agreed on a mission statement, elected officers and directors and (after a thorough search) hired Barbara Wagner as BGMC's Artistic Director. She, in turn, arranged the appointment of Debi Overton as our charter accompanist. Both women are highly respected musicians. Barbara Wagner is now one of only two female conductors of over 150 gay men's choruses in the United States and Canada.

Auditions were held in May 2001, with 36 chorus members on board after the first day. Soon, there were over 50. Rehearsals began on September 11, 2001, a day of shock and sadness throughout our land. The difficult decision to go forward with the rehearsal, despite the tragedy of that day, proved to have been wise. Forty men, many not knowing each other, gathered in an eerie silence. As they and Ms. Wagner held hands for the first time in a community circle, there were anguished murmurs of meditation, grief and prayer. They sang ... ("From you I receive, to you I give, together we share and from this we live"). They learned that long-lived and classic American hymn, "How Can I Keep From Singing?". It remains to this day the Chorus theme song and a continuing reminder for its members of the mutual, family togetherness and inspiration that the Chorus always aspires to attain. It was the processional music at the opening of BGMC's first public concert ("Music From the Heart") on February 9, 2002. The men of

the Chorus, singing this song with feeling and intensity, strode down the aisles of the Unitarian Universalist Church in Buffalo, with uninvited (but welcome) television news cameras recording the event.

The audience that night was huge -- the Church was filled, chairs lined the aisles and, sadly, people had to be turned away at the door. All concerts after that were offered twice in each performance weekend until, some years later, the Chorus began presenting three times in the weekend and, for a short time, with three weekend presentations each year instead of two. Audiences continue to be large, diverse and enthusiastic.

The Chorus has commissioned a number of compositions and special arrangements of music for its concerts. Two of them were especially commissioned for performance by the Chorus at the quadrennial Festival of GLBT choruses from all around the United States, Canada and elsewhere. The Chorus commissioned *Adamic Songs*, a six-part composition featuring poems by Walt Whitman, the creation of Buffalo's Roland E. Martin. *Yes!*, was based on a poem about the struggle for racial harmony, by Countee Cullen, the Harlem Renaissance writer in the early 1900's. *Yes!* was composed by the renowned Adolphus Hailstork, also on BGMC's commission. The Chorus performed these new works at the Festivals of over 100 GLBT Choruses at, respectively, Montreal in 2004 and Miami in 2008.

The Chorus has also enjoyed remarkable creative support from other Buffalo composers and arrangers. Madeline Davis, longtime leader of the GLBT movement in Buffalo and founder of the GLBT Archives, has provided the Chorus with many poignant tunes and texts. Along with many of the GALA composers, Buffalo's Phil Sims, musician extraordinaire, has composed many beautiful arrangements for the Chorus. And Marty Wimmer, a very capable and creative spirit with his moving words and music, continues as a faithful contributor to the BGMC repertoire. Marty provides two of the musical presentations offered at this weekend's concerts.

Along with its efforts and growing musical success, BGMC has received honors in many forms and venues. A number of awards from Artvoice's "Best in Buffalo" proclaimed the Chorus the best local choral group. The Chorus was asked to sing on the Kleinhans Music Hall stage with the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra on two occasions, once for a subscription concert in 2004 and another as a benefit for the Orchestra and the Olmsted Conservancy in 2006, with Maestra JoAnn Falletta conducting. Mary Louise Nanna, founder and conductor of Ars Nova, asked the Chorus to sing in her Viva Vivaldi Series. BGMC was recognized by the Empire

State Pride Agenda in 2005 with the ESPA Award for Community Service awarded to the Chorus for the excellence of its music and its dedication to the community. In March 2008, BGMC was chosen to receive the prestigious Buffalo and Erie County Arts Council Award for exceptional contributions to the arts and cultural community in Western New York.

BGMC's success has brought many requests from worthy organizations to perform benefit concerts, and the Chorus attempts to honor these requests to the extent that it is able to do so. The Chorus has received grants and gifts and much support from both the GLBT community and the community at large. It is pleased to be able to reciprocate.

A major force in the BGMC success has been the impressive dedication, hard work and unflagging efforts by the Chorus singers, as well as the dedication of its non-singing members and volunteers.

The Chorus understands the need to create a positive social impact in the affected communities as effectively and meaningfully as possible. It finds itself in a relatively conservative environment, a factor that, if anything, should make its efforts and impact all the more important, and, it continues to hope, all the more effective. In addition to its influence on the community at large, it is clear that the Chorus has helped raise the self esteem of an historically marginalized portion of our society. Its high profile has helped to create a positive model for those who are grappling with the negativity that is too often imposed on GLBT people.

Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus takes great pride in what it has been able to do and accomplish in the first nine years of its existence. Probably the greatest accomplishment has been its success in weaving the different lives and personalities of its members and of the communities it serves through the tug and magic of music, sung from the heart. The Chorus is, truly, a family. We are delighted to have all of you join us in that bonding company, as you listen to our song.

For those interested in more specifics of the varieties of our experiences and happenings, please browse through the lists of time and experience. The beat continues, with the concert you are now attending.

Events and Happenings . . .

World AIDS Day Memorial Services

AIDS Community Services Annual Fundraisers, "Cause for Celebration"

Domestic Violence Awareness Fundraiser

Fundraiser on behalf of Police Officer Patricia Parete

Katrina Relief Funds, Benefit Concert
 North West Pennsylvania Rural AIDS Alliance and the Unitarian
 Universalist Church of Erie, Pennsylvania, Benefit
 Southern Tier AIDS Community Services and the Katharine Jackson
 Carnahan Foundation Benefit
 Habitat for Humanity Benefit Concert
 Concert benefiting roof repairs at Blessed Trinity Roman Catholic Church
 Amherst Unitarian Universalist Church, Benefit Music Program
 Tree Lighting Ceremony for Women's and Children's Hospital
 Benefit for the Darwin Martin House (Frank Lloyd Wright, architect)
 Benefit Concert for and with the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra and the
 Olmsted Conservancy
 Mark's Place, Niagara Falls, NY, Benefit Concert
 St. Paul's Cathedral, Youth Program, Benefit Concert
 Opening Concert, St. Paul's Cathedral Music Series
 Performance at Buffalo Seminary – High School for Young Women
 Benefit for the Children at Roswell Park Cancer Institute and Carly's House
 MOCHA Project Presents: "Creating Hope Through Art"
 Collaboration with Buffalo Philharmonic Chorus, Western NY Children's
 Chorus in program of music by Benjamin Britten
 Fredonia State College Pride Festival
 Lighting of the Christmas Tree, Albright Knox Art Gallery
 Pro Love produced by Amilcar Hill, inspired by the death of his six-year old
 son.

The audience was more diverse than any other for which BGMC has performed.

It was a defining moment for our organization.

BGMC's provision of complimentary tickets to BGMC performances for
 GLYS (Gay and Lesbian Youth Services) and singing and presenting at
 Gay and Straight Alliance activities in schools.

Performance Venues . . .

Unitarian Universalist Church of Buffalo
 Temple Beth Zion
 First Presbyterian Church
 Albright Knox Art Gallery, Gusto at the Gallery Series
 St. Paul's Episcopal Cathedral
 Erie Basin Marina
 Performing Arts Center, Rockwell Hall, Buffalo State College
 Unitarian Universalist Church of Amherst
 First Baptist Church, Niagara Falls
 Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
 Trinity Episcopal Church
 Westminster Presbyterian Church

Montante Center of Canisius College
 Kleinhans Music Hall, Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra, two concerts
 The Performing Arts Renaissance Theater in Montreal, GALA
 International Festival
 The Nichols School
 Roush Recital Hall, Fredonia State Campus
 Statler Towers Golden Ballroom
 Trinity United Church, Beamsville, Ontario
 Performing Arts Theater of Ithaca, NY
 Langston Hughes Center
 Botanical Gardens
 Hochstein School of Music, Rochester
 First Presbyterian Church, Viva Vivaldi Series
 Buffalo Bisons Baseball Stadium, National Anthem
 Pride Parades and Performances
 MOCHA Awards Dinners
 Blessed Trinity Roman Catholic Church
 Buffalo Convention Center
 HSBC Bank Auditorium
 Elmwood Festival of the Arts
 Hamilton Collegiate Center, Jamestown Campus, Jamestown Community
 College
 Masonic Lodge, Erie, Pennsylvania
 Church of the Ascension
 Riviera Theater
 Orchard Park Presbyterian Church
 Lighting of the Christmas Tree, Albright Knox Art Gallery
 Chautauqua Institute, Gay and Lesbian Festival
 Carnival Theaters, Miami, FL (GALA Festival)
 M&T Plaza Concert Series

Major Concerts . . .

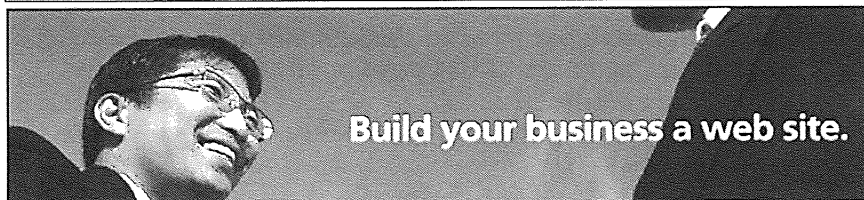
February, 2002	Music from the Heart
June, 2002	Sounds of Summer
January, 2003	Of Sweet Harmony
June, 2003	Songs of Freedom
January, 2004	If Music Be the Food of Love, Play On
June, 2004	Singing With Pride
July, 2004	GALA (Gay and Lesbian Association) Festival of Choruses, 2004, Montreal
January, 2005	Brothers in Song
June, 2005	Fearless
January, 2006	A Winter's Tale

June, 2006	Let Us Entertain You
January, 2007	Celebrate
June, 2007	Colors of Our Lives
January, 2008	The Proud and the Passionate
June, 2008	Connections
July, 2008	GALA (Gay and Lesbian Association) Festival of Chorus, 2008, Miami
December, 2008	Hope for the Holidays (our first Holiday Concert, three performances)
March, 2009	Land Where the Good Songs Go
June, 2009	BGMC On Vacation
December, 2009	Joyful and Triumphant (Holiday Concert)
June, 2010	Once Upon a Time

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About the Artistic Director



Barbara Wagner, Artistic Director of the Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus, has served as Minister of Music at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Buffalo for 48 years and was Director of Vocal Activities at Nichols School for more than 24 years.

The Choir at the UU Church, in addition to its Sunday morning responsibilities, enjoyed two highly acclaimed European tours: the first to Germany, Austria and the Czech Republic, and the second to Ireland, Wales, England and Scotland. The Choir, under Ms. Wagner's direction, has recorded for American Public Radio, performed locally with the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra (BPO), Amherst Saxophone Quartet and the Ars Nova Musicians. Ms. Wagner was the conductor for the Peace Odyssey Concert Tour of Hungary and the former Soviet Union. Choral singers from all over the US participated in this tour.

She ran a choral program at Nichols High School that involved more than 100 young singers, including a Concert Chorus, Women's Ensemble, Men's Ensemble and a Mixed Chamber Group. She was also guest conductor for the City of Good Neighbors Chorale, Buffalo's Gay/Lesbian chorus in the mid 1980s.

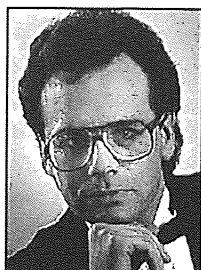
Ms. Wagner earned a BFA Degree from the State University of New York at Buffalo, where she studied organ with Squire Haskin, and completed graduate work at Westminster Choir College. Her advanced studies include organ with Karl Richter at the Munich Conservatory and conducting with Raymond Harvey, formerly Assistant conductor of the BPO and presently Music Director of the Kalamazoo Symphony.

She is a member of the American Choral Director's Association, the Erie County Music Educators Association, MENC, Unitarian Universalist Musicians Network (founding member, former vice president and board member) NYSSMA, the American Guild of Organists (former sub-dean and program chair for the Buffalo Chapter) and the Chromatic Club of Buffalo. She was a member of the Hymnbook Commission for "Singing the Living Tradition" and served as chair of the New Hymns Task Force of the Unitarian Universalist Association. She is presently the Moderator of the 900 member Unitarian Universalist Musicians Network.

Ms. Wagner is the recipient of the Buffalo Philharmonic/Erie County Music Educators Award for Excellence in Choral Music in 2002, and has been included several times in *Who's Who in American Women* and *Who's Who in America*.

Ms. Wagner has proudly and joyously been privileged to serve as Artistic Director for the acclaimed Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus since its founding in 2001.

About the Accompanist



David Bond is a native of Montana. He received a bachelor of music (cum laude) from St. Olaf College in 1974 and went on to attend the University of Michigan, earning a master of music in 1976 and a doctor of musical arts in 1981.

Dr. Bond has been honored in several regional and international competitions. As an active recitalist, his performances have been characterized as "mesmerizing...an astonishing talent" (Altoona, Pennsylvania). He is "an organist to be reckoned with." (Buffalo, New York). His appearances are arranged through the courtesy of Widman-Roe Associates.

As an experienced church musician, Dr. Bond has held positions in Montana, Minnesota, Michigan, and Ohio. He is past dean of the Buffalo Chapter of the American Guild of Organists and was the District Convener for the WNY area of Region II of the AGO for four years. He has been Organist/Choirmaster at First Presbyterian Church Buffalo since November 1985.

About the Artists

David Mathewson, (Assistant Conductor) Organist-Choirmaster at St. John's Grace Episcopal Church since 1981, became a singing member of BGMC in the fall of 2004. He holds the post of Bass II Section Leader, serves as Secretary on the BGMC Board of Directors and assists with sectional rehearsals.

Previous to his affiliation with BGMC, David served as a member of the Executive Board of the Buffalo Chapter of the American Guild of organists and on the AGO Program Committee. As a member of the Music Commission of the Diocese of Western New York, he served as Commission Chair and Secretary.

David completed his undergraduate studies at the Crane School of Music, SUNY Potsdam where he studied organ with James Autenrith and Dr. William Maul, and conducting with Brock McElhrehn. His vocal mentors were Dr. Mary Lou Hultberg and Dr. Richard Griffith.

About the Artists (Continued)

Jennifer Grace Mernitz has her Bachelor's Degree in music performance (vocal) from Baldwin-Wallace College, her Master's Degree in music performance (vocal) from Boston University, and her NYS Teacher Certification (Music Pre-K - 12) from SUNY at Buffalo (UB). During these many varied and wonderful learning years, music gave her the opportunity to travel and perform in many exciting places - such as Washington DC, Boston, New York City, Berlin, Frankfurt, Leipzig, Salzburg, Prague, Dublin, London, Salisbury, Stratford Upon Avon, Edinburgh, and Glasgow. She has performed many different styles of music from folk song to opera and enjoys the unique challenges that each has to offer.

Ms. Mernitz is in her seventh year of teaching in the Clarence Central School District. She has taught at all three levels of education - elementary, middle school and high school. In 2007, she was given the privilege of being the founding director of the Treble Chorus (an audition only treble voice ensemble) at Clarence High School. Ms. Mernitz thoroughly enjoys directing the talented young women of this wonderful chorus.

Ms. Mernitz is a member of NYSSMA (New York State School Music Association), ECMEA (Erie County Music Educators Association), MENC: The National Association for Music Education, ACDA (American Choral Directors Association), as well as the Mu Phi Epsilon Music Honor Society. She actively performs in the Western New York area and currently holds the position of soprano soloist / section leader at the UU Church of Buffalo.

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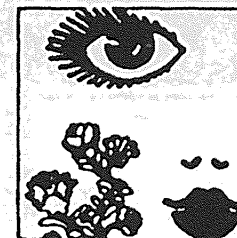
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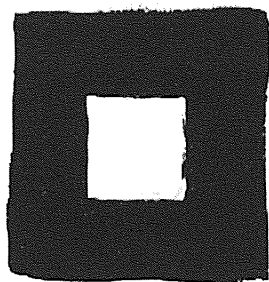
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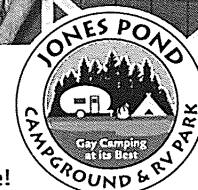
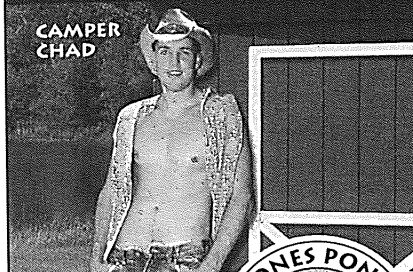
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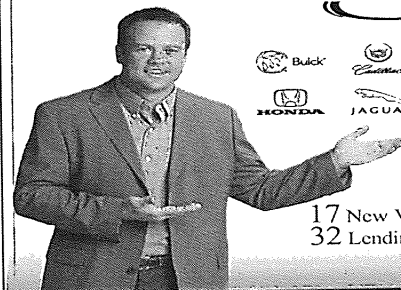
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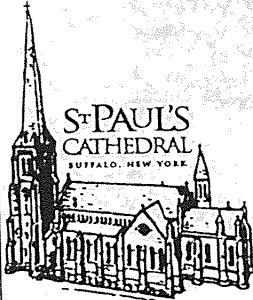
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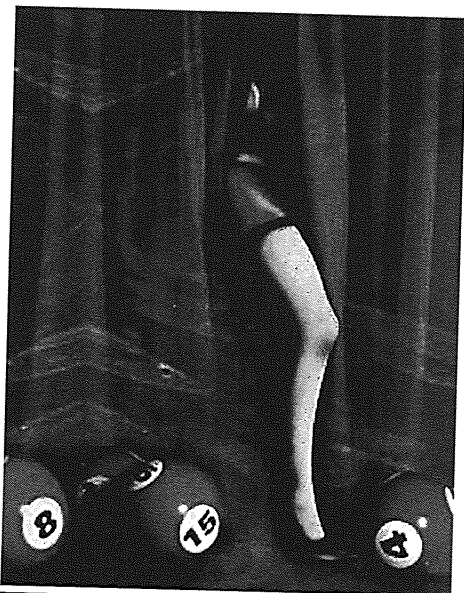
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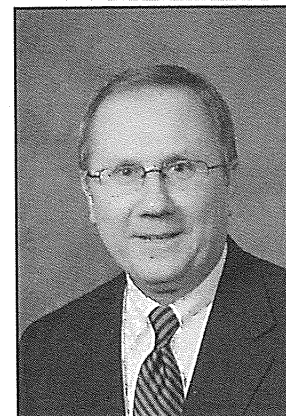
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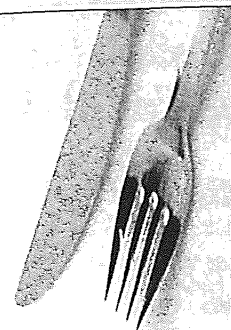
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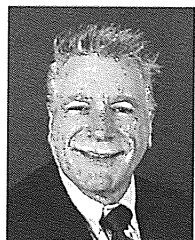
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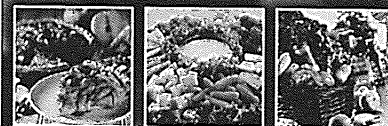
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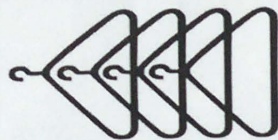
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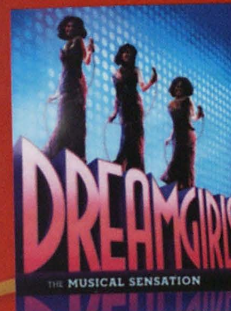
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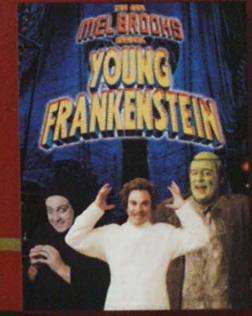
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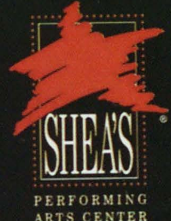
Jan. 16, 2 p.m.

Go to www.sheas.org, call 847-0850 or go to
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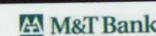
For a complete listing of shows & events, go to sheas.org

All shows, dates, times, prices and artists are subject to change.



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